THE

ORDEAL.

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POLITICAL.

What remains to be done concerns the collective body of the people. They are now to determine for themselves, whether they will firmly and constitutionally assert their rights; or make an humble, slavish surrender of them at the feet of the ministry To a generous mind, there cannot be a doubt, we owe it to our ancestors to preserve entire those rights, which they have delivered to our care; we owe it to posterity, not to suffer their dearest inheritance to be destroyed. JUNIUS.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

THE period, which all America has expected to arrive with the strongest emotions of hope, fear and solicitude, is now past; and it is at this moment as difficult to determine what we are to expect of Mr. Madison, and what is to be the ultimate destiny of the nation, as it was a year ago. The time of the inauguration of the new President was peculiarly adapted in the present deranged state of our publick affairs, and distressed condition of the publick mind, to unfold his principles of national policy, and to trace with some little precision the future course of his conduct. Not only America, but the whole world, will consider attentively the opinions of the new President at his induction to office as an index, which will point out with some degree of accuracy the the contents of his political works; from this, the two great belligerent powers will expect to determine in what light they are to view him, whether as an open or concealed enemy; or as a friend to one and an opponent of another power. All that we can discover from the address of his Excellency is the truth of our former predictions, that he would support the old system which his predecessor had erected, and which every thinking man in the community believed was rotten at the foundation.

Throughout this speech, we can trace that same tendency to indecision of expression, from which nothing can be drawn, that characterized his predecessor, as well as the same cant of friendship to all nations and to all his fellow citizens, of economy, the discharge of the publick debt, of the diffusion of knowledge and civilization among the Indians, and of information among the people, &c. &c. The editor of the New-York Evening Post refrains from making any remarks

upon the address, because he hopes Mr. Madison will appoint Federalists to offices of trust, and adopt an entirely different policy from that practiced by Mr. Jefferson ; but for our part, whilst we shall be ready to acknowledge at any moment, whatever dignified or honourable act the President may think proper to perform, we cannot refrain from remarking that we cannot discover in the sentiments of this first speech, any foundation for such a belief, or any the most remote allusions to such praiseworthy intentions. Our remarks therefore will be perfectly unrestrained upon the subject. We confess we have strong prejudices against *inaugural speeches* in general ; we have been dosed with their hypocrisy before now, and perhaps we may form a rash judgment in respect to this of Mr. Madison's. At any rate, we hope we shall hear no more of the *white sattin and letters of gold*, which the inaugural address of another President most shamefully disgraces.

If the talents of the new President are not to be made more evident by his transactions than they are in this address, well may he declare that he ' repairs to the post assigned him with no other discouragement than what springs from *his own inadequacy* to its duties.' If he has a proper sense of his own *inadequacy*, we should imagine *that* were alone sufficient to render his new office intolerably burthensome.

Mr. Madison begins his career of duty with a non-intercourse act, which he expects will afford him a temporary popularity, by the partial repeal of the embargo law, which it includes. This act was probably dictated by the new President ; it is his ; it is incorporated in his administration ; it does not begin to operate until his appointments have been made. The motives of this act, however, we really believe principally resulted from calculations of popularity ; and it is doubtful whether the good of the country had any share in the decision. Congress believed it requisite they should do something. War was out of the question ; there is no preparation for it, notwithstanding all Mr. Jefferson's talk ; and all Europe, to our eternal disgrace, are sensible that our national spirit and honour can never be exalted any higher than to a calculation of profit and loss. All that Congress dared to do was to hold out a threat, which both Great-Britain and France perfectly well know will end in its concession. This conclusion can be drawn from the face of the whole transaction ; if France or Great-Britain do not rescind their decrees, where is our power to enforce our rights, and maintain our honour? Distance, and distance alone is our safety ; the only reason which enables us to preserve our national existence. For as to any intrinsick energy which we ever possessed, it has evaporated through our calculating brains. The non-intercourse is worse than the embargo, because it cannot be considered merely a municipal regulation ; it is a measure of hostility, a war measure, a measure of defiance. It is like a child running at a man with a wooden sword from a toy shop : the injury to the belligerent powers, will be just about as effectual, and it

lies with them to treat us with justifiable contempt, or whip us into sense.

The new President has been evidently partial to the French nation, in all his negociations. The last publication of *suppressed* documents prove the assertion beyond all doubt or contradiction. And even this non-intercourse law, has a tendency the same way. Whilst all trade and all intercourse between us and any port in the actual possession of the English and French is prohibited; we find the terms of expression so guarded as to admit the construction of an admission to trade with Holland, by which, if it can be prosecuted, Napoleon will derive nearly all the benefit which could result to him from a trade directly with France. If Holland is not a dependency of France, when governed by a French king, what reason is there for doubting, as Mr. Gallatin does, about granting clearances to the kingdom of Italy? But the effect of this new law on the morals of this community, will be to the last degree deplorable; it erects a system of commerce which will probably be extensive, but which will be the most corrupt that can possibly be imagined. England will be supplied indirectly through Portugal, with cotton, and we shall pay the additional expences in the manufactures, which we shall inevitably receive in return, through Canada. Of course, our most solemn oaths, will be a mere formulary of words; and the frequent repetition of falsehood will at last make us believe it of no importance. This pretended panacea for the diseases of the political body, will be universal in its operation; but the malady will not be removed.

Mr. Madison's address on taking the oath of office seems to us replete with misrepresentation and cant. Among the proofs of what he denominates 'the unrivalled growth of our faculties and resources,' which distinguished this country, until lately, he enumerates 'the progress of manufactures and useful arts;' than which no assertion can be more erroneous. There is, perhaps, no country so little distinguished for manufactures as this; and the circumstance of the general ill-success of all manufacturing schemes is a proof of our great prosperity in other respects. Placed as this nation has been in a situation so singularly advantageous, as to enjoy all the advantages of war, without any of its evils; we owe all our prosperity to our distance from the scenes of warfare; and to the contempt with which we were for a long time viewed by the belligerent powers. 'The benign influence of our republican institutions,' as Mr. Madison so ...ectedly styles them, has had nothing to do in producing the effect. It was in the nature of things, that *our commercial spirit* should promote the prosperity which the peculiar state of our foreign affairs invited us to enjoy. The hostility to that enjoyment was first promulgated by Mr. Jefferson; and Mr. Madison, in his famous resolutions in 1794, seconded the endeavour.

Mr. Madison then makes the following assertion; 'it has been the true glory of the United States to cultivate peace by observing justice, and to entitle themselves to the respect of the nations at war *by fulfilling their neutral obligations, with the most scrupulous impartiality.* If there be truth or candor in the world, the truth of these assertions will not be questioned. Posterity will at length do justice to them.'

We generally doubt the sincerity of an observation, where such an evident *wish* appears that it may seem to be true. This question of partiality is undoubtedly Mr. Madison's sore place, and he hopes to salve it over, or wrap it up in an appeal to the 'candor and truth of the world.' We do believe him, notwithstanding all this parade, to have been always decidedly partial to the interests of France, and in as great a degree hostile to the views of Great-Britain.

His arguments on the question of impressment were evidently dictated by such hostility; for it is clear that the *claim* of the British in searching a foreign merchant vessel for deserters, is in its nature equally just, with the undoubted right of searching a neutral vessel for contraband goods. The reasoning in both cases will equally apply. The exceptions taken by Mr. Madison to the course the British have pursued, are applicable exclusively to the *practice* of that nation, and do not affect the *right* at all. The long pamphlets, which he has written expressly for the purpose of making British hostility evident, where there was never any intended; the apparent insincerity of the negociations on the British treaty, by Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, who followed his instructions; and more recently his correspondence with Mr. Rose, on the Chesapeak disaster, afford ample evidence of his willingness to irritate, and unwillingness to heal the wound inflicted on us by Great-Britain. His conduct in regard to France is equally instructive of his partiality. His suppressed correspondence with General Armstrong, as disgraceful to his honour as it is pernicious in its tendency, would not leave us any doubts upon the subject, even if we were otherwise unsatisfied. His abject fear of the French emperour, his tone of supplication, and his invariable style of communicating his sentiments form a contrast with his deportment towards Great-Britain, as striking as it is instructive. Indeed it was not until the Federalists made some very severe strictures on the conduct of the administration, particularly as respected their foreign partialities, and until this opinion began to gain circulation, that we heard any thing from government about French hostility; and we believe the Berlin decree would have been silently acquiesced in, or only formally noticed, if such bold truths had not been told by the Federalists. Then indeed, the tone of the administration *at home* began to change; and France was coupled with England in our state papers. But in France what Napoleon's impression of our hostility was, can be collected from General Armstrong's letter to Mr. Madison, in which he expresses his belief that our measures will never

go beyond *words, words, words,* that we dare not declare war against France, any more than the minister of foreign relations dare mention our commercial pretensions to the irritable emperour. This impression of Napoleon's is made more evident by his publick expression concerning us; 'the *allies of France and the United States* sacrifice, with a resolution equally generous, their private conveniences, in repelling from all points the English commerce.' Thus we are, in the opinion of the emperour, coupled with France, in resisting the British nation. What our negociations with the French ministry to authorise such a conviction must have been, it is more easy to imagine than decide.

From such an opinion as we entertain of Mr. Madison's sincerity, we cannot believe the following sentence, that in the fulfillment of his duty as President, among other motives which will actuate him, he intends 'to cherish peace and friendly intercourse with all nations, having correspondent dispositions; to maintain sincere neutrality towards the belligerent nations; to prefer in all cases, amicable discussion and reasonable accommodation of differences, to a decision of them by an appeal to arms; to exclude foreign intrigues and foreign partialities, so degrading to all countries, and so baneful to free ones.'

We should have thought Mr. Madison had better have omitted any mention of Mr. Jefferson, than thus to satirise him; after saying he has the good fortune to have the path in which he is to tread, *lighted* by examples of services the most illustrious, he proceeds to observe: 'Of those of my immediate predecessor it might least become me here to speak; I may, however, be pardoned for not suppressing the sympathy with which my heart is full, in the rich reward he enjoys in the *benedictions of a beloved country*, gratefully bestowed for exalted talents, zealously devoted through a long career, to the advancement of its highest interests and happiness.'

The '*benedictions of a beloved country*' is an expression evidently ironical. A fifteen months embargo, his negociations abroad, hypocrisy at home, and the universal distress in which he has left the United States produce the strongest probability that the 'benedictions' of which Mr. Madison speaks, more resemble hatred and execration.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.

TO place too strong a reliance on the militia of a country is the general fault of visionary politicians. Courage, honour, personal strength, and patriotick motives may do very well for a little time; but they will soon give way to steadiness, concert, superiour discipline and tacticks. The experience of all

great generals, from Carthaginian Hannibal to Russian Suwarrow, proves the truth of this assertion. There is scarcely an instance where levies of militia, suddenly raised, have ever made any long stand against regular troops. It is *real service* and the practice of tactical knowledge, that will make soldiers, better than all the theory which can be invented. The Prussians, before the battle of Jena, were considered the best soldiers in Europe ; the English had adopted their discipline and tacticks ; and, to be sure, as far as mere proficiency in the manual exercise, external appearance and accurate manœuvres went, they were excellent troops. But the new tacticks of the French were too much for them ; and they had been out of practice for many years : the consequence was, they were cut to pieces by Napoleon. In our revolutionary war we were almost always beaten when we came to action in the open field ; and it was the true policy of Washington to retire to heights and other strong defensive positions, where he intrenched himself, and would never give battle if he could avoid it, but upon terms decidedly advantageous to himself.

The policy, which the Spanish generals are pursuing, is evidently the best, which they could adopt. They carry on a kind of partizan warfare ; they do not concentrate their whole army, and hazard the fate of the country upon the issue of a general engagement. The battles of Austerlitz and Jena speak a lesson to them, upon the subject, too striking to be disregarded. If they are attacked they defend themselves as well as they are able, but retire when the danger of entire defeat becomes apparent. Thus the French make a progress in the country ; but the Spaniards, sometimes successful and sometimes worsted, are learning to become good soldiers, and their officers are every day gaining intelligence. Peter the great first brought the Russians to be good soldiers ; he fought with Charles the 12th of Sweden, and though at first more than 60,000 of his troops ran from 10,000 Swedes, yet before the war was ended, the Russians had learned to beat their instructors in the famous battle of Pulowa. The Supreme Junta, in recommending this system of warfare to the Spanish Generals, have been of incalculable service to their country ; we are not prepared to declare that the Spaniards will ultimately succeed in their glorious struggle, but we really can conceive of no better system of defence

than that on which they now practice. The Spaniards have a most excellent officer in General Blake; his retreat through the mountains of Asturias will be considered a masterly one hereafter, by military men; and by the last accounts from Spain, it appears that he is enlarging his army in Leon, and is again preparing to attack the enemy. This intimation, however it may seem to contradict his having resigned the command of the army on the 27th of November to the Marquis of Romano, may be reconciled on the supposition that he has begun to collect another; which supposition is not weak, if it be considered that Romano has joined the English at Salamanca or Benevento.

The accounts which General Castanos gives of the battle of Tudella differs in many essential particulars from the French bulletins. In our last number we gave as clear an account of that action, as could be obtained from the perverted sources from which we derived it. But Don Castanos, in a great measure contradicts it, he claims a victory, and though this cannot be granted him, it appears that so far from giving way on the first approach of the French, the Spaniards fought with much steadiness and actually repulsed them. On the left particularly the Spaniards were eminently successful, but pursuing their successes too far, they lost the day; for the French, as they state in the bulletin, penetrated through Tudella, and took the pursuing Spaniards in the rear. But let us hear the Spaniard himself.

'On the 23d the advanced parties reported that three columus of the enemy were marching in the direction of Tudella; the *generale* was beaten, and while the troops of Arragon were passing the bridge, the enemy occupied the points of attack, which began at eight o'clock in morning; at ten o'clock the whole line was engaged.—Our troops maintained their position with the utmost valour, and the enemy was repulsed on both sides. He renewed the attack, and rendered himself master of an olive grove on the left, whence he descended with a tremendous fire, but was so well received by our gallant troops, that after the most obstinate conflict he was compelled to retreat, while our troops were pursuing the defeated enemy on our left, when another division of the enemy penetrated through Tudella on the right, and took our pursuing troops in the rear. This decided the fate of the day, and nothing was left for our army but to retreat to Borja. While this was going forward

in Tudella, the 4th division, commanded by Gen. LAPINA, which was in Cascante, two hours march from the field of battle, and had received orders to attack the right flank of the enemy, found 3000 French infantry, and 1000 cavalry opposed to them, in the act of offering battle; LAPINA immediately engaged, defeated and pursued them to the heights of Tudella, whence he was attacked by the enemy's troops, who occupied the heights. LAPINA retreated to the position of Cascante, where he defeated the enemy, and at the fall of night began to fall back to Borja, according to the last order he received; on his retreat he was again attacked by the enemy, but new troops checked his progress, and the four divisions reached Borja, where they marched to Calahayad.

The forces of the enemy in these actions of Tudella and Cascante amounted to from 36 to 40,000 infantry and from 6 to 7000 cavalry. Their loss has been very considerable, as has likewise ours, in missing and prisoners, but the number cannot be accurately stated till the Generals of the Divisions have made out and delivered their lists.'

After this, Castanos for want of means of subsistence in Calahayad, resolved to proceed to Seguenza, which is nearer Madrid, since which we have not heard from him; he will probably remain in some convenient position, to act against the enemy in the event of his attacking Sarragoza, which it is said, is threatened by the Duke of Cornegliano.

After the battle of Tudella, Bonaparte could not anticipate many obstacles to his proceeding for Madrid, and he accordingly crossed the Duero at Aranda, on the 29th of November, and established his head quarters at the village of Bougillas. The 13th bulletin gives an account of an affair in the narrow passage of Puerto, or the post of Somosierra, in which they claim a victory. The Spanish account of the same action, on the contrary, declares that Don Benito S. Juan, who commanded the post, 'effected the complete defence of this point.' However bravely the Spaniards fought on this occasion, it is pretty certain they were obliged to abandon the position, for the head quarters of the French were removed on the 1st of December, to St. Augustine, and on the 2d to St. Martin near Madrid.

Madrid capitulated on the 5th of December, with merely a show of resistance; but there appears to have existed much un-

easiness among the lower classes of people, who were willing to have hazarded their lives in defence of the city; and notwithstanding the cautious language of the bulletins, it will be necessary to keep an extraordinary body of troops to overawe the multitude. Should this be the case, it will much facilitate the operations of Castanos and Palafox on one side, and the junction of Sir John Moore and Sir David Baird with the Marquis of Romano on the other. The movements of the English troops have been uncommonly cautious. In consequence of Castanos' defeat at Tudella, they had considerably receded; but that affair not proving so decisive as was apprehended, they turned about again. Sir John Moore had reached Salamanca in Leon, from Portugal, and the latest news we have of him, the 19th of December, is that he had nearly formed a junction with Sir David Baird, and the latter General was at Benevento. Another account asserts that Romano had actually joined the English, and that the combined army were going to march for Valladolid with a view of cutting off the communication between the army at Madrid and Astonga. On the same authority we hear of another action at Tudella, in which Castanos had defeated the French with great slaughter.

On the whole, we do not perceive that the affairs in Spain have grown by any means desperate, because Napoleon has captured Madrid: on the contrary there are many topicks of consolation and encouragement; the capacity of General Blake, the probable junction of the English armies with Romano, the favourable situation of Castanos and Palafox after the battle of Tudella, the ill success of the French in Catalonia, the determined resistance of the province of Asturias, and generally the unconquered spirit of the Spanish people.

FRENCH DIGNITARIES.

AS the new nomenclature of the French Generals occasions some difficulty to the readers of the Bulletins, we insert the following key of the new titles, with which Napoleon has distinguished his peculiar favourites.

The Prince Arch Chancellor of the Empire (Camberceres)	Duke of Parma.
The Prince Arch Treasurer, (Le Brun)	Placenza.
Marshal Moncey,	Cornegliano.
Massena,	Rivali.
Angereau,	Castiglione.
Soult,	Dalmatia.
Lannes,	Montebello.
Mortier,	Treviso.
Ney,	Elchingen.
Davoust,	Austerdadt.
Bessieres,	Istria.
Victor,	Belluno.
Lefebre,	Dantzick.
Kellerman,	Valmy.

COLONELS GENERAL.

Marmont,	Ragusa.
Junot,	Abrantes.

GREAT OFFICERS OF THE CROWN.

Caulincourt, Great Chamberlain,	Vicenza.
Duroc, Great Marshal of the Palace,	Frione.

GENERALS.

Savary,	Rovigo.
Areglei,	Puda.

DEMOCRATICK CONSISTENCY.

GILES *versus* GILES.

WE recollect with what wonderful avidity of panegyrick the first speech of Mr. Giles on the embargo laws was extolled by all the democrats in the United States; he was the Goliath of Gath, who undertook singly to fight all the host of Israel upon the subject. He defended it as stoutly as he could. He talked especially of its *coercion* on foreign nations; he proposed the LAST embargo bill in the Senate, advocated its principles in all its stages, and appeared to all intents and purposes the most active legislator in supporting by sophistry the unconstitutionality of its powers, and the necessity of enforcing the political

dreams of the President. But he has lately offered us a lesson on the *sincerity* of all this declamation, which will teach us how to respect in future the political integrity of Mr. Giles. On the resolution for raising the embargo and adopting the non-intercourse policy he observes—

"I have never relied so much on the *coercive effects of the embargo singly*, as some gentlemen have done; and I have at all times been of opinion, that preparations for more efficient measures should have been made to come in aid of, or substitute the embargo, whenever it should be ascertained that it had failed of its coercive objects."

This assertion is an absolute falsehood, if we are to believe his former observations; or, if we cannot give credit to them, then he was guilty of shameful untruth in maintaining so ardently such doctrines, as he knew were absolute tyranny, if the embargo was ineffectual abroad.

It seems that Mr. Giles has now found out that the non-intercourse is an admirable measure, and the embargo was good for nothing. He has no compunction for the distress and calamity of the country under its operation for fifteen months.

You can never expect a democrat to argue reasonably. His notions are confined to the immediate result of the experiment without reflecting on the consequences of the undertaking. The experiment of the embargo failed; but the non-intercourse is to bring foreign nations to terms. The British nation, however, will enjoy the commerce from which we have excluded ourselves; and we may hug ourselves with satisfaction at the blessed effects of non-intercourse. The reasoning of Mr. Giles is very much like that of a name-sake of his, whom we recollect to have been formerly acquainted with in an epigram:

GILES Jolt, as sleeping in his cart he lay,
Some waggish pilferers stole his *team* away;
Giles wakes and cries, "What's here! ods dickens, what?
Why, how now, am I Giles, or am I not?
If he, I've lost six geldings to my smart;
If not, ods buddikins, I've found a cart."

THE GERMAN SCHOOL OF POETRY.

THE admiration with which the principal writers of the German School are viewed in this country, seems to demand an exposition of the perverted principles of taste, on which such writers compose. The gairish ornament and tinsel decoration, which are necessary to satisfy expectation in American composition, can only result from bad taste. A continual hankering after tropes, metaphors and similes, seems universally to pervade all American notions of good writing: and the neatness of Addison and genuine anglicism of Swift will stand no chance of success, when contesting with the voluputous effusions of Darwin, the multiplied metaphors of Southey, the horrours of Schiller, or the tender morality of Kotzebue. We imagine the following extract from an uncommonly learned and discriminating European work will afford our readers some instruction, upon this very important literary subject.

'THE disciples of this school boast much of its originality, and seem to value themselves very highly, for having broken loose from the bondage of the antient authority, and re-asserted the independence of genius. Originality, however, we are persuaded, is rarer than mere alteration; and a man may change a good master for a bad one, without finding himself at all nearer to independence. That our new poets have abandoned the old models, may certainly be admitted; but we have not been able to discover that they have yet created any models of their own; and are very much inclined to call in question the worthiness of those to which they have transferred their admiration. The productions of this school, we conceive, are so far from being entitled to the praise of originality, that they cannot be better characterised, than by an enumeration of the sources from which their materials have been derived. The greatest part of them, we apprehend, will be found to be composed of the following elements: 1. The antisocial principles and distempered sensibility of Rousseau—his discontent with the present constitution of society—his paradoxical morality, and his perpetual hankerings after some unattainable state of voluptuous virtue and perfection. 2. The simplicity and energy (*horresco referens*) of Kotzebue and Schiller. 3. The homeliness and harshness of some of Cowper's language and versification, interchanged occasionally with the *innocence* of Ambrose Philips, or the quaintness of Quarles and

Dr. Donne. From the diligent study of these few originals, we have no doubt that an entire art of poetry may be collected, by the assistance of which the very *gentlest* of our readers may soon be qualified to compose a poem as correctly versified as Thalaba, and deal out sentiment and description, with all the sweetness of Lambe, and all the magnificence of Coleridge.

'The most distinguished symbol' of the authors of whom we are now speaking, 'is undoubtedly an affectation of great simplicity and familiarity of language. They disdain to make use of the common poetical phraseology, or to ennoble their diction by a selection of fine or dignified expressions. There would be too much *art* in this, for that great love of nature with which they are all of them inspired; and their sentiments they are determined shall be indebted, for their effect, to nothing but their intrinsick tenderness or elevation. There is something very noble and conscientious, we will confess, in this plan of composition; but the misfortune is, that there are passages in all poems that can neither be pathetick nor sublime; and that, on these occasions, a neglect of the establishments of the language is very apt to produce absolute meanness and insipidity. The language of passion, indeed, can scarcely be deficient in elevation; and when an author is wanting in that particular, he may commonly be presumed to have failed in the truth, as well as in the dignity of his expression. The case, however, is extremely different from the subordinate parts of a composition; with the narrative and description, that are necessary to preserve its connexion; and the explanation that must frequently prepare us for the great scenes and splendid passages. In these all the requisite ideas may be conveyed, with sufficient clearness, by the meanest and most negligent expressions; and if magnificence or beauty is ever to be observed in them, it must have been introduced from some other motive than that of adapting the style to the subject. It is in such passages accordingly, that we are most frequently offended with low and inelegant expressions; and that the language, which was intended to be simple and natural, is found oftenest to degenerate into mere slovenliness and vulgarity. It is in vain, too, to expect that the meanness of those parts may be redeemed by the excellence of others. A poet, who aims at all at sublimity or pathos, is like an actor in a high tragick character, and must sustain his dignity throughout, or become alto-

gether ridiculous. We are apt enough to laugh at the mock-majesty of those whom we know to be but common mortals in private; and cannot permit Hamlet to make use of a single provincial intonation, although it should only be in his conversation with the grave-diggers.

'The followers of simplicity are, at all times, in danger of occasional degradation; but the simplicity of this new school seems to be intended to ensure it. *Their* simplicity does not consist, by any means, in the rejection of glaring or superfluous ornament—or in that refinement of art which seeks concealment in its own perfection. It consists, on the contrary, in a very great degree, in the positive and *bona fide* rejection of art altogether, and in the bold use of those rude and negligent expressions, which would be banished by a little discrimination. One of their own authors, indeed, has very ingeniously set forth, (in a kind of manifesto, that preceded one of their most flagrant acts of hostility), that it was their capital object 'to adapt to the uses of poetry, the ordinary language of conversation among the middling and lower orders of the people.' What advantages are to be gained by the success of this project, we confess ourselves unable to conjecture. The language of the higher and more cultivated orders may fairly be presumed to be better than that of their inferiours; at any rate, it has all those associations in its favour, by means of which a style can ever appear beautiful or exalted, and is adapted to the purposes of poetry, by having been long consecrated to its use. The language of the vulgar, on the other hand, has all the opposite associations to contend with, and must seem unfit for poetry, (if there were no other reason), merely because it has scarcely ever been employed in it. A great genius may indeed overcome these disadvantages; but we scarcely conceive that he should court them. We may excuse a certain homeliness of language in the productions of a ploughman, or a milkwoman; but we cannot bring ourselves to admire it in an author, who has had occasion to indite odes to his college-bell, and inscribe hymns to the Penates.

THE PORT FOLIO.

THIS miscellany has at length made its appearance, and we believe, not in its typographical elegance, but in the talents which are displayed in it, has generally gratified the desires of impatience, and fulfilled the expectations of criticism. How far the entire exclusion of all political and religious topicks may be popular, the conductors, having probably reflected much upon the plan, are undoubtedly the most experienced judges. For our part, we consider them topicks of the most general interest, and we believe there has never long existed any publication of great celebrity or circulation, which has not been obliged to take some decided part in the political and religious controversies of the times. The Gentleman's Magazine, certainly, soon after it was established, resorted to political discussion to increase its circulation ; the Monthly and Edinburgh Reviews, Aikin's Athenæum, the Literary Panorama, and the Monthly Magazine, all maintain a certain set of political opinions, and adhere to them with the most scrupulous pertinacity. Whilst, therefore, we should naturally be led to doubt, whether a publication conducted on the present plan of the Port Folio would probably excite a very *extended interest* in the publick mind, yet we are ardent admirers of the abilities with which the work appears to be conducted, and we want no further poof to convince us how effectually it will 'vindicate the literary reputation of America.'

As the basis on which the conductors of this publication intend to erect their reputation is *literature* exclusively, so to give variety to the parts and beauty to the whole fabrick, they expect to derive assistance from many workmen. The Biographer, the Satirist, the Dramatick Critick, the Antiquary, the Philosopher, the Essayist, the Historian, the Poet, the Traveller, the Humourist, the Novelist, and Man of Science will lend their aid to diversify and adorn with their united powers the pages of the Port Folio. We cannot question the ability of the *whole confederacy*, when the pleasures we have derived from the labours of only *one* of them for a long course of years, have been so exquisite and powerful. This '*solid column of literature*,' has indeed a broad base ; and if a purely literary establishment can succeed

in this country, such conductors as those apparently concerned in *this* work, and *such only* will be able to attain an object at the same time so desirable and uncertain. We shall delight to mark the luminous progress of this orb through the literary hemisphere; but we fear it will rather resemble a comet, calculated to excite our wonder and amazement for a transient period, than a luminary of steadier light, which we can permanently enjoy. We think that the scholar and philosopher 'will delight to encourage so praiseworthy an establishment:' but they are few, and widely scattered in our country; as to the 'merchant, manufacturer and man of the world,' we believe few of them would peruse, and still fewer applaud a publication, the object of which is to extend the boundaries of science, add new accuracy to taste, and cultivate the growth of literary enterprize.

THE NEW CHURCH.

THE NEW MEETING-HOUSE, which is to be erected at the head of the Mall, should, in order to be made a profitable speculation, contain a cellar of sufficient convenience to admit *grog-shops and confectioners' stalls*, like that under the Old South. It will be found a place of extremely convenient resort for the coach-men and other idle gentlemen, who frequent that part of the town; and will not be in any respect inconsistent with the principles of Calvinism, which the church itself will espouse. The leaders may then have abundant proofs of the *natural depravity* of man, and of the *influence of the spirit* in counteracting *human reason*. They may expect a hopeful stock of recruits, with all the important qualifications requisite to be admitted into the ranks of Hopkinsianism, viz. first, a loss of reason; next, an abundance of *ardent spirit*; and lastly, an ample stock of natural depravity. The great increase of such incomprehensible tenets of late years may perhaps be accounted for, from the combination of grog-shops with meeting-houses, so frequently observable in New-England.